

# twelvebaskets



## ORDINARY 28B

A complete Sunday service ready to use  
for worship and inspire ideas in your church

Produced by **twelvebaskets**. Subscription available from **[theworshipcloud.com](http://theworshipcloud.com)**

**Ordinary 28 - Year B**  
10th October 2021



## **Order of Service**

Call to worship

**Hymn:**

**81 STF – Now thank we all our God OR**

**565 STF – Only by grace can we enter**

Opening Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

All Age Talk

**Hymn:**

**341 STF – All for Jesus—all for Jesus OR**

**250 STF – Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult**

Readings: Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 26; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

**Hymn:**

**632 STF – I've had questions without answers OR**

**643 STF – When, O God, our faith is tested**

Reflections on the readings

**Hymn:**

**566 STF – Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee OR**

**673 STF – Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?**

Intercessions

Offering / collection

Blessing the offering

**Hymn:**

**238 STF – Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us OR**

**545 STF – Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart**

Blessing

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The Vine Services are compiled and produced by twelvebaskets.

Many more resources and inspiration for this week's lectionary, leading worship and other church use are available on [www.theworshipcloud.com](http://www.theworshipcloud.com).

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## **Call to worship**

Gracious God, your love has called us here,  
And here we come, to meet with you,  
To be transformed by your Spirit,  
And to take courage to go out into a world in need,  
In Jesus' name,

Amen.<sup>1</sup>

## **Hymn:**

81 STF – Now thank we all our God OR  
565 STF – Only by grace can we enter

## **Opening Prayers**

Through the changing of the seasons, we gather  
to worship you O God.

We bring our worries and our hopes this day,  
we bring them all before the Lord.

From all directions on the compass,  
every walk of life,  
we are here,  
we are one family,  
united by the eternal love of Christ.

Brothers and Sisters, siblings in Christ,  
let us sing of love and praise as we worship together,  
Amen.<sup>2</sup>

## **We say together the Lord's Prayer**

### **All Age Talk**

I wonder, how easily you are distracted? Are you someone who can stay focussed, or does your mind often wander off to a different topic or thought?

In the animated film Up, there is a section of the film that involves talking dogs and one of these – called Dug – becomes one of the key characters. However, in the middle of conversations and often when they should be focusing on something else, the dogs in the film will suddenly look away into the distance and shout 'squirrel!' The

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<sup>1</sup> Call to Worship written by Tim Baker

<sup>2</sup> Opening prayers written by Tim Annan-Hood

presence of a squirrel, or the scent of squirrel, or even the merest hint of a squirrel distracts them, even in the middle of a sentence.

I wonder – are we like that sometimes? Perhaps especially in our Christian lives and as we try to follow Jesus? It is all going along well and then...squirrel!! We look off to the side at the first sign of distraction, and lose our way. Perhaps that happens when you are sitting in church, when you are praying, when you are reading your Bible or when you are having a conversation with one of your friends.

The world we live in is full of distractions, lots of things are trying to get our attention all the time: the adverts are louder and more personalised than ever, the screens are bigger, the clothes more shiny, the shops more tempting. How easy is it for you to get distracted from caring for others, from trying to do the right thing, from loving God and our neighbours?

Jesus talks about the way that the things of this world (riches, fancy clothes, a nice car, expensive toys, getting more money, being better off than those around us) how all of those things become a barrier to getting to know him. How, if we truly want to follow Jesus, we have to turn away from the distractions of this world in order to focus on the love of God, a love that lasts forever.

This week, as we go about our daily lives, can we be aware of how easy it is to get distracted like the dogs in Up. Let's make sure we are committed to following Jesus as best we can, and try not to shout 'squirrel' too many times!<sup>3</sup>

**Hymn:**

341 STF – All for Jesus—all for Jesus OR  
250 STF – Jesus calls us! O'er the tumult

**Readings:** Job 23:1-9, 16-17; Psalm 26; Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31

**Hymn:**

632 STF – I've had questions without answers OR  
643 STF – When, O God, our faith is tested

**Reflections on the reading**

*[Two people are ready to read the Bible – one at a lectern or desk, one in the pulpit, if possible. The text is written for A being a woman, but this could easily be adapted. Both are ready to read. They look at each other – puzzled and begin to read at the same time.]*

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<sup>3</sup> All Age Talk written by Tim Baker

A Psalm 22.

B Psalm 121.

A Excuse me! I thought you asked me to read Psalm 22?

B I did. But I thought you weren't going to start, so I thought I should.

A But you're not reading the same psalm.

B No. I'm reading Psalm 121.

A So you don't want me to read Psalm 22?

B Yes I do. And I also want to read number 121.

A Two Psalms? Are you sure?

B Absolutely!

A Sounds strange to me. Anyway, who goes first? I suppose it should be you, that seems polite.

B Oh, no! Surely it should be ladies first?

A Maybe! But in the opinion of some of those people out there, I'm no lady!

B And we're wasting time! How are we going to resolve this?

A I know! Let's be different. Let's read alternate verses. You start!

B Psalm 121

A Psalm 22

B 'I lift up my eyes to the hills – where has my help come from?'

A 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?'

B 'My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.'

A 'O my God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer, by night and am not silent.'

B 'He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber.'

A Excuse me a minute!

B Yes! What now?

A Are we reading from the same book?

B I hope so! Mine's a bible and it looks like yours is too.

A Well I think there's some kind of discrepancy.

B Do you indeed? What is it now?

A Well, whoever wrote my psalm couldn't seem to find God anywhere. Your man knows exactly where to find him. So my man goes round shouting, 'Where are you, God? I want to talk to you!' while yours just ambles off to the hillside to find him.

B So obviously your writer was going through a bad patch and mine was happy and contented.

A Good for him! But mine was really feeling totally lost and in despair and just finding someone else who was on top of the world wouldn't have exactly filled his life with joy, would it? You need more than that when you think your world's coming to an end.

B Yes. Agreed. But they were probably two very different people.

A That's a blindingly obvious statement!

B And we all go through different phases of life at different times.

A I think I knew that too!

B So sometimes you feel far away from God and sometimes you feel close.

A And sometimes I wish you'd stop talking in clichés and give me a sensible answer.

- B Well, when you read through the Psalms it means you can always find one that will speak to the way you feel.
- A But which of them do I believe? One of them feels forgotten by God and the other one feels totally protected and supported. All these contradictions! I give up! I'm going - and I just hope that somebody will be able to explain it all!
- B Perhaps that is what church is for – to help address these kind of issues.<sup>4</sup>

What we hope is that with your help, as a congregation, we can wrestle with and discuss one of the issues at stake in this reading, the apparent presence of contradictions in the Bible.

So, let's spend a few minutes talking to the people around us about this:

- Do you think there are contradictions in the Bible?
- Why might they be there?
- How do we use any apparent contradictions to help us further our understanding of God and how we should live?

*[Hold a conversation about this issue, you may like to think of other questions to ask or make the questions listed above available on a screen or printed paper to help people have the discussion. Depending on time and the size of congregation, it may be helpful to spend a few minutes hearing people's reflections and thoughts.]*

### **Hymn:**

566 STF – Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee OR

673 STF – Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?

### **Prayers of intercession**

Let us open our hearts and be vulnerable before Jesus as we share what is on our hearts.

*[If it is your practice, there is time indicated below to share prayer needs communally].*

“Even today my complaint is bitter: his hand is heavy in spite of my groaning. If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling! I would state my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments.”

Like Job, we come today with heavy hearts and angry words. We cry out in anguish, hoping that someone, anyone will hear us. We weep for those around us who are suffering. Let us remember those who are actively dealing with conflict or the effects of prolonged war. Those who have been separated from their families because of the pandemic. Those who are uncertain about their employment. Those who sit waiting for results. In this moment of silence, let us share these concerns and those we bring with us today with God.

*[Time of silence or to share prayer concerns].*

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<sup>4</sup> Taken from Full Service 23B by Marjorie Dobson and Andrew Pratt

As we communicate our concerns with our fellow siblings in Christ and with God, may we find help that leads to peace.

May that peace guide us, protect us, and bring us one day closer to rejoicing with the Lord.

Until that day, let us pray together, to you O Lord.

And come amongst us, by your Spirit,

Amen.<sup>5</sup>

### **We will now take up the offering.**

#### **Blessing the offering**

Living God, you have blessed us with many gifts. We take this moment in our worship to offer ourselves again in your service. Use these gifts to build your Kingdom here on Earth.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.<sup>6</sup>

#### **Hymn:**

238 STF – Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us OR

545 STF – Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart

#### **Blessing**

We rise from this space, knowing that the Word of God is ablaze in our hearts,  
We go to seek the goodness of the Lord in the Land of the living,  
And to seek peace and pursue it, all around us.

In Jesus' name, we pray for the courage and grace to follow your call on our lives, O God,

Amen.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Prayers of intercession written by Tim Annan-Hood

<sup>6</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker

<sup>7</sup> Additional prayers by Tim Baker